



## Construction Program Procedure Bulletin

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### CPB-99-8 Horizontal/Vertical Clearance Changes and Bridge Permit Rating Changes

References: Standard Specification, Section 7-1.09, "Public Safety"  
Construction Manual, Section 2-07, "Legal Relations and Responsibility"

Effective Date: March 1, 2000

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Approval Date: March 1, 2000

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### **BACKGROUND**

Caltrans issues transportation permits under the authority of the California Vehicle Code to grant operating authority to vehicles that exceed the statutory limits for size and weight on the State Highway System. Caltrans routinely issues permits for loads up to 18' high and 20' wide, and occasionally issues permit for larger loads. Permits are issued after comparing the dimensions of the load to the characteristics of the requested route and verifying the adequacy of:

- 1) vertical and horizontal clearances of structures
- 2) bridge permit ratings
- 3) horizontal clearances along the roadway.

The Transportation Permits Branch maintains clearances and bridge permit ratings in the "Route Clearing Database" (RCD). Changes to clearances and bridge permit ratings must be incorporated into the RCD fifteen days before the change occurs to ensure the accuracy of transportation permits.

Changes to clearances and bridge permit ratings may be temporary or permanent. Temporary changes include falsework installations; lane, ramp, collector, and road closures; detours and stage construction; temporary structures; K-rail installations; lane width and number reductions; and lane realignments. Permanent alterations include pavement overlays under structures; installation and modification of sign structures; and modifications to existing structures (i.e., seismic retrofit, widening).

## **OLD PROCEDURE**

### **Impaired Clearance (Temporary)**

The specifications require advance notice by the Contractor of reduced clearances available to public traffic. Resident Engineers are to notify the district permit office of the anticipated dimensions of reduced clearances preferably two weeks and not less than one week in advance of the date of actual impairment. Resident Engineers also advise the permit office of the estimated duration of the impairment. If the reduced clearance is on a roadway under local jurisdiction, ensure that the affected agency is notified, preferably in writing.

### **Changes in Vertical Clearance (Permanent)**

The Resident Engineer, acting in behalf of the Office of Structures Maintenance and Investigations, should make and record final vertical clearance measurements when pavement rehabilitation projects require lane shifts, construction stages or traffic pattern changes that would otherwise necessitate repeated trips to the construction site by Structures Maintenance personnel. The Resident Engineer should make prior contact with the Office of Structures Maintenance for instructions regarding the data needed and should transmit findings to that office.

## **NEW PROCEDURE**

### **Temporary Vertical and Horizontal Clearance Changes**

The Resident Engineer shall notify the Transportation Permit Office by FAX of proposed vertical and/or horizontal clearance changes and their duration fifteen days prior to implementing the proposed changes. (Note: The specifications require the Contractor to notify the Engineer at least fifteen days before the anticipated start of each falsework and girder erection operation whenever the operation will reduce clearances available to public traffic). If the clearance change is on a local jurisdiction roadway, the affected agency shall also be notified in writing at the same time.

### **Temporary Bridge Permit Rating Changes**

The Structure Representative shall notify the Resident Engineer in writing and the Bridge Rating Engineer by FAX of the proposed bridge permit ratings and their duration fifteen days prior to implementing proposed bridge permit rating changes. The Bridge Rating Engineer shall then notify the Transportation Permit Office of any rating changes immediately.

Within three days of the removal of the temporary bridge permit rating the Structure Representative shall notify the Resident Engineer in writing and the Bridge Rating Engineer by FAX. The Bridge Rating Engineer shall then notify the Transportation Permit Office immediately.

### **Permanent Vertical and Horizontal Clearance Changes**

The Resident Engineer shall notify the Transportation Permit Office by FAX of permanent vertical and/or horizontal clearance changes fifteen days prior to implementing the proposed changes. The Transportation Permit Office should be consulted prior to actual field measurements to confirm the necessary information.

### **Permanent Bridge Permit Rating Changes**

The Structure Representative shall notify the Resident Engineer in writing and the Bridge Rating Engineer by FAX of the proposed bridge permit ratings fifteen days prior to implementing proposed bridge permit rating changes. The Bridge Rating Engineer shall then notify the Transportation Permit Office of any rating changes immediately.

### **Notification Procedure**

Changes to be reported in accordance with the above procedures must be submitted to either the North Region or South Region Construction/Maintenance Liaison in the Transportation Permits Office. The North Region liaison is responsible for Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (except San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties), 6 (except Kern County), and 10. The South Region liaison is responsible for Districts 5 (San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties only), 6 (Kern County only), 7, 8, 9, 11, and 12.

The attached forms shall be used when submitting changes. The Transportation Permits Office will, within one business day, send a FAX to the Resident Engineer confirming receipt of the change.

This procedure will be incorporated into the next revision of the Construction Manual and is available on the Construction Program's Intranet web site:

<http://babycray2.caltrans.ca.gov/hq/construc/cpbindx.htm>

Attachment